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No. 101.—Vol. 40. Jan. 1, 1881.

THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER AND ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.

OLD-YEAR DIFFICULTIES FOR GREAT BRITAIN TO SURMOUNT IN THE NEW YEAR.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S.—General GARFIELD, Prince of Montenegro; Viceroy of India; Generals Phayre, Sir F. Roberts; Abdul Rahman, Yakhoob Khan, Indian Princes, the Shah, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Earl Granville, Marquis of Hartington, and Mr. Parnell, M.P.; Cetewayo and Wives, General Wolseley and Sir Bartle Frere, George Pavey and William Herbert added to the Chamber of Horrors. Open 10 till 10. Admission, 1s.; Extra Rooms, 6d.

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GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA

who says:—"*I have many a time and oft, glanced, with much gleeful contentment, on [these] literary and graphic drolleries.*"

The *Daily News* remarks:—"The notion of re-issuing the discourses of 'The Showman,' with the humorous sketches inseparable from them, is one that must meet at once with the approval of all readers of our illustrated contemporary, in whose columns these amusing papers first saw the light."

"*Mr. Punch*, who had been making various purchases of illustrated books (. . .) including The Showman, edited by Codlin, with a capital preface by G. A. S."—*Punch*, Dec. 25.

The *World* of Dec. 29 says of "The Showman's Panorama:"—"His comments are marked with much pleasant humour, while Mr. Mackay's sketches are excellent."

"A good shilling's-worth."—*Examiner*, Dec. 25. "Conservatives will be gratified to find the Liberal artist and author hoist with their own petard on the very first page (q.v.)."—*Life*, Dec. 25. "Exceedingly funny."—*Whitehall Review*.

The *Referee* says:—"The whole may be safely recommended to those of our readers who like either to shoot folly as it flies themselves or purchase it ready shot for home consumption."

"Mr. G. A. Sala contributes a most amusing Introduction to 'The Showman's Panorama,' a humorous collection of pictures and comments prepared by Codlin and Short."—*Lloyd's*.

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The Penny Illustrated Paper.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1880.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

SNOWY Christmas interfered considerably with the enjoyment of seasonable fare on the part of the belated railway travellers, who were snowed up on some of the Scottish lines on Christmas Day. But in the south here, our Christmas has been almost too moist—from a climatic point of view, of course. Snow in North Britain, floods at Windsor, and Summer in the Isle of Wight! Who can doubt that we had, at any rate, the advantage of variety in our Christmas weather? The dismally wet Boxing Day found London taking its pleasure as zealously as ever. Holiday numbers speak eloquently to this fact. Witness only a few of the totals counted at the principal places of amusement:—

Zoological Gardens	9,367
Crystal Palace	35,011
Alexandra Palace	20,000
South Kensington Museum ...	21,581
National Gallery	14,500
British Museum	14,041
The Tower	8,500

* * * * *

The theatres were all crowded in the evening. At Drury-Lane, a characteristic Boxing Night audience joined in the choruses to each popular air introduced by Mr. F. Wallerstein into his brilliant overture. A notable incident happened during this lively overture. At the first notes of "God Bless the Prince of Wales," the "house" rose spontaneously and the cheering was unmarred by a single sibillant noise. It was otherwise with the "National Anthem." People languidly rose to their feet; and the cheers were leavened by unmistakable hisses, which were, however, drowned by loyal hand-clappings. The Marquis of Hartington, by-the-way, was in a private box in the course of the evening, and apparently found plenty of relaxation from the cares of the India Office in "Mother Goose."

PHILIP.

News in a Nutshell.

REPULSE OF THE BOERS BY THE POTCHEFSTROOM CAMP.

SIR GEORGE COLLEY "wired" this important message to Mr. Childers on Tuesday, the telegram having been dispatched from Pietermaritzburg:—

"Further Details.—Hume, 94th, wounded, 20th.

"Dr. Ward, only unwounded officer, remained with wounded.

"Ambulances and medical attendance went out from Pretoria.

"Captain Lambert, 21st, prisoner at Heidelburg.

"Potchefstroom camp attacked whole of 26th.

"Boers repulsed, with considerable loss.

"Captain Falls, 21st, killed; six men wounded.

"Meeting of Boers near Wakkertroom.

"Reported attack on town threatened.

"Utrecht seized.

"Head-quarters, two companies, and 250 draughts leave this for Newcastle."

The Durban Special of the *Standard* "wired" the the same day:—

"The Boers have released the prisoners belonging to the 94th Regiment, and have sent them to Pretoria. It is supposed that the leaders of the rebellion disapprove of the massacre, and are anxious to disclaim all responsibility for it.

"Refugee families from Utrecht and Standerton, as well as the families accompanying the British column, have reached Natal. All telegraphic wires are now cut.

"The Humber has arrived with troops from England, and the Anglia has also come up with two hundred. All march immediately for the front.

"The Governor is leaving with an escort of volunteers. He will go as far as Newcastle, on the frontier of Natal, and will there await the arrival of troops."

Throughout the Transvaal the wildest excitement prevails. At home arrangements have been made for the dispatch of a regiment of cavalry and a battery of artillery to Natal, and a Reuter's telegram informs us that on Monday the Tamar left Gibraltar with the 97th Regiment for Capetown and Natal.

THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

Queen Victoria will not be present at Berlin on the occasion of the marriage of her grandson, Prince William Henry, but will be represented on the occasion by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The Queen of Sweden is coming to England on a two-months' visit.

Her Majesty distributed Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve to the old labourers and their wives on the Osborne estate and to the children attending Whippingham School. The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Connaught, entered the servants' hall, where the ladies and gentlemen of the household were assembled, shortly after four o'clock, when the Queen, assisted by the Princesses, handed the gifts to each recipient. A Christmas-tree was prepared for the children.

The Queen and their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service at Whippingham church on Christmas morning. The Rev. Canon Prothero officiated.

The distribution of her Majesty's alms took place at the Royal Almonry at Whitehall in Christmas week. The total number of persons relieved amounted to 1168, of whom 1000 received 5s. and 168 13s. each; the first, representing the common "bounty" or ancient "dole" of 5s., being allowed to a comparatively small percentage of the general poor, mostly belonging to the metropolis, and the second, the "gate alms," being bestowed upon the necessitous of a special or superior class resident in London and some rural districts. In olden times, these "gate alms" were, as the name implies, distributed at the gate of the Royal palace, where a sum of 6d. was given away weekly to the poor and needy. Long prior, however, to 1712 the distribution of this bounty was transferred from the palace to the Royal Almonry, then, as now, situated in Scotland-yard, Whitehall, which is within the verge of the King or Queen's Court, and also within the jurisdiction of the Lord Steward of the Household. Thenceforward the gate alms, instead of being given away week by week, have been bestowed in two moieties of 13s. each, at Christmas and Easter. The candidates in the present year were selected by the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor (Lord High Almoner) and the Rev. Canon E. R. Wilberforce (Sub-Almoner to the Queen), assisted by Mr. John Hanby (Secretary and Yeoman of her Majesty's Almonry in Ordinary), who, in turn, was aided by the valuable co-operation of the Rectors and Vicars of the parishes in London and its environs, and also of a few who minister in country parishes. On the list of recipients there are many whose period of life has ranged from eighty to ninety-six years, besides which more than half of the persons benefited are either blind, lame, paralysed, or otherwise sadly afflicted.

The Queen's New-Year's gifts, consisting of beef and coals, will be presented to the poor of the parishes of New Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer on Saturday.

Christmas was celebrated at Sandringham in a truly rational manner, the kind thoughtfulness of the Prince and Princess of Wales providing that no cottage on the estate should be destitute of the means of enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner. On the morning of Christmas Day the Prince and Princess, with the Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, attended by Miss Knollys, Mdlle. Vautier, Lieutenant-General Sir Dighton Probyn, Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, Mr. F. Knollys, and Mr. Holzmann, proceeded to the church of Mary Magdalene in the park, which was tastefully decorated. The Rev. F. Hervey, M.A., Rector of Sandringham with Babingley and West Newton, officiated and preached the sermon. In the afternoon their Royal Highnesses attended Evensong at the church of West Newton. The service was conducted by the Rev. Theodore Calliphronas, M.A., late scholar of Caius College, Curate of West Newton. The Prince and Princess, with Princesses Louise, Victoria, and Maud, and the ladies and gentlemen of the household, attended Divine service on Sunday morning at Sandringham church, the Rev. F. Hervey, M.A., officiating and preaching the sermon.

The Duke of Connaught has graciously consented to act as president of the council interested in establishing coffee taverns for the Army and auxiliary forces.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught crossed from Osborne on Tuesday morning and inspected the Scotland, lying alongside Portsmouth Dockyard awaiting the embarkation of about 400 troops for conveyance to China and Ceylon. The Duke and Duchess were received by the naval and military authorities, and expressed themselves highly satisfied with everything they saw.

Parliament will meet next Thursday. The Ministerial changes have been very few. The Cabinet remains without alteration. Outside that body, Mr. Adam's appointment to the Governorship of Madras left open the office of First Commissioner of Works, which was taken by Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, who was re-elected for Reading without opposition. The Secretaryship of the Admiralty, which had been filled by Mr. Lefevre, was conferred upon Mr. Trevelyan. The Under-Secretaryship of the Home Department is now vacant, through the resignation of Mr. Arthur Peel. The acceptance of this, like that of the Admiralty Secretaryship, will not render re-election necessary, neither of the posts being held directly from the Crown.

Mr. Bright, in his brief but adequate reply to Lord Carnarvon, dated "Rochdale, Dec. 25," says he has defended the Monarchy, but that its defence is little needed in this country. He would not reply at length to the noble Lord—it was enough to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, and he would leave his speech and that letter to the judgment of the public.

Sir Stafford Northcote has issued invitations to the supporters of the late Government in the House

of Commons to dine with him at 79, Portland-place, on Jan. 5, the eve of the meeting of Parliament.

The Viceroy of India is now convalescent, and no further bulletins have been issued. Lord Ripon left his bed for the first time on Friday week, and it is hoped that he may be able to start from Allahabad on Jan. 3, arriving at Calcutta on the following day.

Ireland As She Is.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND IRELAND.

MR. GLADSTONE has, in reply to a correspondent in Fermanagh, refused to be drawn into any expression of his opinions in regard to the state of Ireland. The right hon. gentleman says it is less material that his own particular opinions should be declared, "as his sentiments respecting the operations of the Land League may be gathered from the trial proceeding."

HOME RULERS.

At the annual meeting of the Irish Home-Rule members of Parliament, on Sunday, Mr. Parnell was re-elected chairman of the party for the ensuing year. A resolution was adopted, binding members to sit in opposition to every Government refusing the just demands of the Irish people. Obstruction! Barefaced Obstruction threatened! We hope the Government will deal with a strong hand with all Obstructives, whether belonging to the "Third" or "Fourth" Party; and that the House generally will support the Government in maintaining order.

OVATION TO MR. PARNELL AND MR. BOYTON.

During the adjournment of the meeting of Home Rule members on Sunday, Mr. Parnell, wishing to avoid a demonstration outside Morrison's Hotel, in Dublin, where he usually stops, drove over from the City Hall to the Imperial Hotel, but, being recognised, a large crowd soon assembled, blocking the traffic in Sackville-street. A deputation waited upon Mr. Parnell requesting him to appear on the balcony and address a few words to the people, but he declined. As soon, however, as Mr. Parnell and Mr. Boyton, one of the traversers, took their seats in a cab, the horse was removed from the shafts, and they were drawn by the populace through Sackville-street, past the Rotunda, and along Capel-street to their destination at the City Hall. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed along the route.

THE TRAVERSERS.

The defendants in the information filed by the Attorney-General are:—

Charles Stewart Parnell, Avondale House, Avondale, Wicklow, M.P.
John Dillon, North Great George's-street, Dublin, M.P.
Joseph Gilles Biggar, merchant, Belfast, M.P.
Timothy Daniel Sullivan, journalist, Dublin, M.P.
Thomas Sexton, Frederick-street, Dublin, M.P.
Patrick Egan, hon. treasurer of the Land League, merchant, Clontarf.
Thomas Brennan, secretary of the Land League, Dublin.
Michael O'Sullivan, assistant-secretary of the Land League, Dublin.
Michael Boyton, agent of the Land League, Kildare.
Patrick Joseph Gordon, of Claremorris.
Mathew Harris, of Galway.
John W. Nally, Mayo.
John W. Welsh, Balla.
P. J. Sheridan, of Tubbercurry.

PARNELL DEFENCE FUND.

The Parnell Defence Fund has been stopped by the Land League, £14,000 having been subscribed.

REPORTED OUTRAGES.

A farmer named Terry, of Ballinacourty, whose farm was sold in the Landed Estate Court, Dublin, latterly, and purchased by Mr. Thomas Stephenson, was on Sunday night reinstated in possession by a large band of men with blackened faces, who forced him to swear not to leave.

The Rev. Mr. Boylan was proceeding from Enniskillen on Sunday night when he was met at Bromard by a party of men, who attacked him and stabbed his horse. The police are investigating the affair.

A soldier of the 1st Dragoons, stationed at Longford, was returning to the barracks on Sunday night, accompanied by his wife, when both were brutally assaulted by a party of men.

A Portadown correspondent telegraphs that on Sunday night an attempt was made to set fire to the Duke of Manchester's scutch-mill, the watercourse of which had been previously let off.

Mr. Thos. Sanders, who has been "Boycotted," has, says a Charleville telegram, been removed from the agency on the Tipperary estates of Captain Dawson, on the application of the Galbally branch of the Land League.

As the Rev. Canon Fleming, Protestant Rector of Ballinakill, county Galway, was returning home on Sunday evening after performing Divine service in a distant part of his parish, a determined attempt was made to assassinate him within a quarter of a mile of his home. Two shots were fired point blank at him, the bullet from the first grazing his face, the second passing between him and his servant. Fortunately, Mr. Fleming was driving quickly, and to this, no doubt, he owes the preservation of his life.

DASTARDLY ATTEMPT ON LADIES.

A dastardly attempt was made at Monasterboice, county Louth, on Saturday, on the life of the Hon. Mrs. Dunlop and her daughter. These ladies were driving up the avenue to their residence in a pony phaeton when a shot was fired from the bushes, which, fortunately, did not take effect. Miss Dunlop jumped out of the phaeton and ran in the direction from which the shot came. A man crouching under the shrubs with a gun in his hand took to flight. Miss Dunlop pursued, but failed to overtake the cowardly miscreant. She, however, secured the gun, which, in his flight, he threw away.

It is also reported that Miss Ellard, of Newtown Ellard, Limerick, who has to manage a portion of her father's property, has been fired at while driving in a waggonette, and that she replied to the attempt on her life by firing four shots from her revolver.

THE BOYCOTT FUND.

Lord Claud Hamilton has consented to act as chairman of the Boycott fund, which now amounts to nearly £1400.

MILITARY NEWS.

Her Majesty's troop-ship Assistance, which arrived at Queenstown with additional troops and Army Service corps, landed the mules and equipment belonging to the latter contingent on Monday, and then steamed out of the harbour for England.

A Parsonstown correspondent writes:—Over 500 troops have been draughted throughout the district since Friday, and the roads are patrolled nightly by one hundred soldiers, under four officers. Twenty-seven persons have been summoned for intimidating land agents.

Two officers and fifty men of the Rifle Brigade arrived in Galway on Monday. The gun-boats Valorous and Goshawk are in the bay.

LAND LEAGUE MEETING PREVENTED.

Another Land League meeting, called for Sunday, was stopped. A large number of people assembled at the appointed place, Borris-in-Ossory, Queen's County, but the resident magistrate (Mr. Hamilton) said that, in accordance with his instructions, he would not allow a meeting to be held in any part of the county. There was, therefore, no speechmaking. There were present on the ground one hundred men of the 84th Regiment, forty of the 19th Hussars, and sixty of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. FORSTER ON THE IRISH FRANCHISE.

Replying to a deputation of the Dublin Corporation which waited upon him last Monday in reference to the Irish borough and county franchise, Mr. Forster expressed regret that the Government were unable to proceed with the borough franchise last year. It was their desire that the Irish municipal franchise should be assimilated to that of England. He thought they should not attempt to deal with the right of voting in counties until a bill was introduced dealing with the same subject as affecting the rest of the kingdom.

A DUBLIN ROW.

The *Irish Times* reports a violent affray in the streets of Dublin between soldiers and "civilians," originating, according to one story, from a man of the artisan class calling a dragoon a Saxon invader and knocking him down; and according to another account, from some soldiers "cursing Ireland and Parnell." Anyhow, ill-feeling between nationalities appears to have led to the disturbance, in which many on both sides are said to have been seriously injured.

THE SEIZURE OF A VESSEL WITH ARMS.

A FEW further particulars have been published respecting the seizure on Dec. 22 of a vessel in the Shannon laden with arms. The ship is said to be the same Juno from which some arms were stolen in Cork Harbour. The vessel has been knocking about for six months on her way to America. After leaving Queenstown some time ago, she again met with rough weather, and put back to the Shannon. The authorities appear first to have had their suspicions aroused by the activity of the shore-boats, and then by the appearance of a few unknown Irish Americans in the district. The police and constabulary thereupon boarded and took charge of the vessel, to prevent a raid similar to that carried out in Cork Harbour. A party of marines from the Valiant were also placed on board, and she was then towed to the graving dock at Limerick to undergo repairs.

TIMELY WARNING TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The *Spectator* says:—"Of course, if the Lords believe, and have good reason for their belief, that the convictions of the country have materially changed in relation to Irish politics since the letter to the Duke of Marlborough was written, they may be justified in running the risk of attempting to secure for the country an opportunity for the avowal of that change of opinion. Only let them recollect that it is a risk, and a great risk, which they run; and that if they should succeed in forcing an appeal to the people, only to prove that the people have not changed their mind, it would be a critical moment for the House of Lords."

WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW.—A gentleman writes:—"Since I have used Eno's Fruit Salt night and morning my headaches, &c., have quite left me; and this is after suffering for above twenty years. You should make this fact well known." Eno's Fruit Salt or Fruit Saline (prepared from sound ripe fruit). It is a pleasant beverage—sparkling, cooling, refreshing, and invigorating; it keeps the blood pure and prevents bilious attacks by natural means. Sold by all Chemists. Price 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. Beware of unprincipled worthless imitations.—[ADVT.]

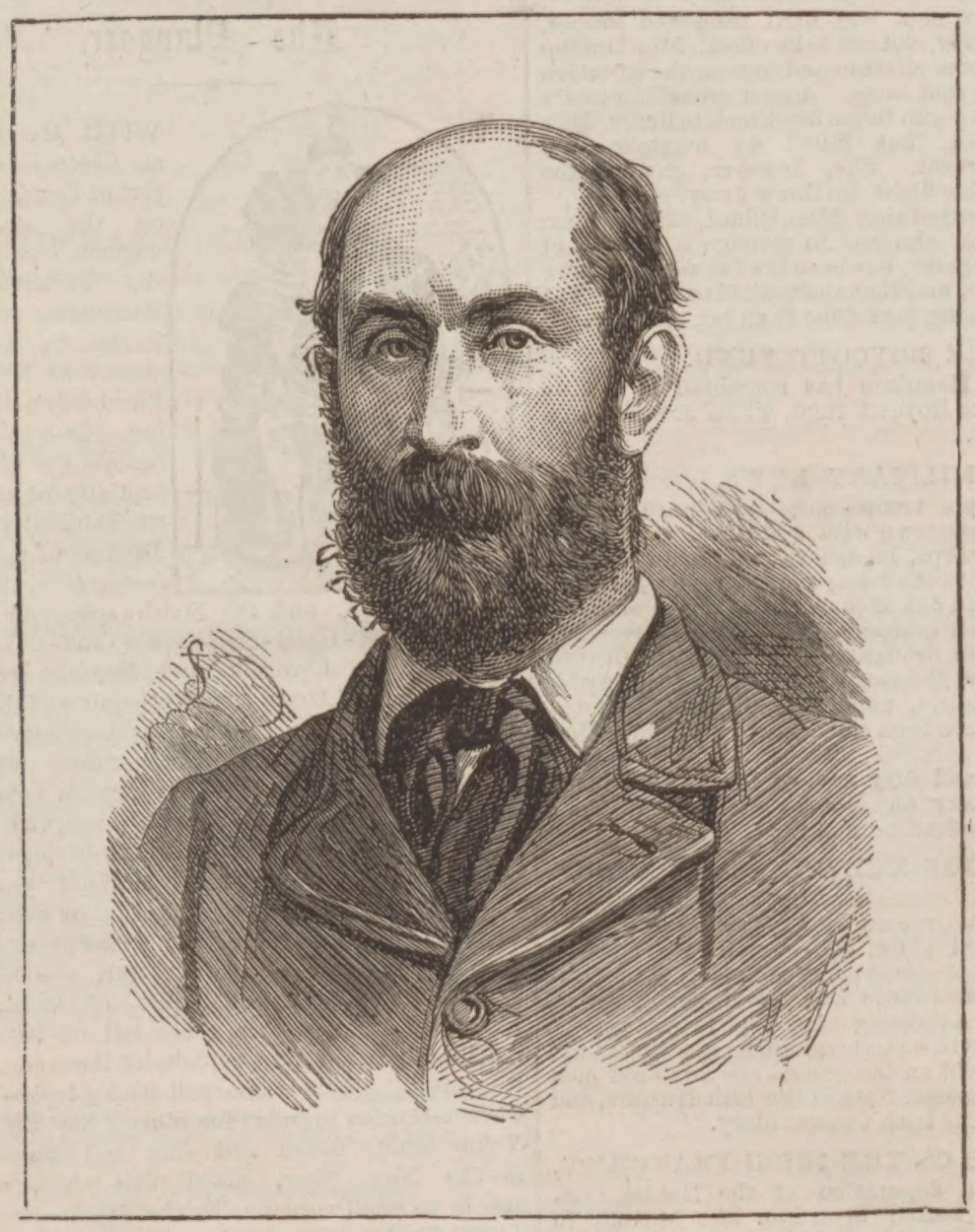
The Playgoer.

WITH Harry Payne as Clown—and the best of English Clowns on the stage—the "comic business" of the Covent-Garden Pantomime was bound to be as rollicking almost as Mr. F. C. Burnand's witty opening. It would be to imitate the wearisome prolixity of the long-winded daily critics to dwell upon the manifest merits, the buoyant cheeriness, and the lavish splendour of the Burnand-cum-Gatti-cum-Vokes-and-Chatterton-cum-Beverley, Cormack and Meyder version of "Valentine and Orson; or, Harlequin and the Magic Shield," as Mr. Burnand has aptly named the Covent-Garden holiday piece. A pleasanter duty will it be to pick out the tid bits. It is Miss Victoria Vokes, who, as Sir Valentine, does battle with Orson, and engages in the mock battle delineated in the Illustration. Of course, Fawdon Vokes is Sir Valentine's esquire, and as such he is as mercurially active as ever. How Fred. Vokes, as Orson, flings his elastic legs about, and how clever little Fred. Lauri vies with him in nimbleness as the deftest of bears, every London pantomime-seer could tell off-hand from recollection of the past exploits of these adroit pantomimists. All the same will each playgoer hie to Covent-Garden to judge for himself how the famous Vokes family dance and sing and make merry in the New Year, aided this time, as they are, in no small measure, by the dry humour of Mr. J. G. Taylor, the sterling "low comedian." A magnificent Transformation, a charming Watteau ballet scene, and the witching panorama call for warm praise; but the stirring combat in the woods between Valentine and Orson for the hand of the fair Princess (Miss Clara Ashley) will be the great pantomimic event for the little ones. It is therefore depicted. Yet do not on any account omit to stay to see the budget of fun which Mr. Harry Payne, as principal Clown, and Mr. Charles Lauri as his able colleague in clowning, have provided in the Harlequinade.

Mr. Augustus Harris has at Drury Lane produced one of the very best openings "the Lane" has seen for many years past. "Mother Goose; and the Enchanted Beauty," written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, goes with unfailing vivacity from start to Transformation-scene—thanks, in a great degree, to the judgment and zealous activity of Mr. Harris himself, who has evidently infused new blood of a vigorous kind into the Drury Lane pantomime. I venture to say the property lion introduced to try the valour of Dr. Syntax (Mr. Arthur Roberts) and Prince Florizel (Miss Kate Santley) is the most realistic lion that has ever trod the stage of Old Drury. This scene gives a fair notion of the rattling "go" which distinguishes the "Annual." Both Mr. Roberts and Miss Kate Santley, by their humour and sparkle, well won the applause showered on them. Whether for the comic ditties they and their associates sang with such point; or for the dainty grace of Katti Lanner's capitally-trained troupe of juvenile coryphées; for the marvellous dancing of Mdlle. Palladino or of Mr. John D'Auban, the agility of Mr. Wyatt as Punch, or the quaint and grotesque acting of Mr. John Ridley as the gigantic goose, to say nothing of the Vokes-like evolutions of Mr. Julian Girard, and the beautiful scenery of Mr. Henry Emden—"Mother Goose" thoroughly deserves to be seen as a model pantomime of the modern type. As for the Harlequinade, Messrs. Fred. Evans, Rowella, and Bertie Coote may have developed more fun by this time to supplement the very effective Reflected-Statue Ballet. As Conductor of the popular pantomime music, Mr. F. Wallenstein excelled himself, and was deservedly encored on Boxing Night, when Messrs. Harris and Emden were also honoured by a call.

The enormous sale of HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA by some 4000 Agents (Chemists, &c.) at once testifies to the high approval it has realised for its combinedly strong, delicious, and invigorating qualities.—[ADVT.]

A THOUSAND POUNDS OF TEA were given away to "the Poor of Lisson-grove" in Christmas week by Messrs. Spencer, Turner, and Boldero.



SIR GEORGE POMEROY COLLEY,
GOVERNOR OF NATAL.

Our Illustrations.

THE MAN FOR THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS.

ANOTHER New Year has dawned on an unhappy state of things in South Africa. The Basuto War is unfinished. The Boers have proclaimed a Republic in the Transvaal. Untoward as were the events which immediately followed the rising of the Boers, we should feel reassured by the fact that the distinguished career of Sir George Pomeroy Colley justifies us in pointing to him as an Englishman thoroughly competent to meet the emergency.

We portray the present Governor of Natal—long known as Sir Garnet Wolseley's chosen and very efficient Chief of the Staff. His record is emphatically good. Sir George Pomeroy Colley, C.B., C.M.G., of the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Infantry, held the post of private military secretary to the late Viceroy of India, Lord Lytton, until the Zulu War called for his services in Zululand. Colonel Colley entered the service in 1852; he obtained the rank of Lieutenant in 1854, Captain in 1860, Brevet-Major in 1863, and Brevet-Colonel in 1874. He was employed on special service in the Kaffir wars of 1858 to 1860, then served in the China war at the capture of the Taku forts and in the advance on Pekin; afterwards, under Sir Garnet Wolseley, in the Ashantee war of 1873, commanding the transport and line of communications, and at the battle of Amoaful and taking of Coomassie. He has been repeatedly mentioned in despatches and thanked by Government, besides receiving promotions and war medals with clasps. His ability as a military administrator is generally recognised. Our portrait of Sir George Colley is from a photograph by Messrs. Maull and Co., of London.

OLD-YEAR DIFFICULTIES FOR GREAT BRITAIN TO SURMOUNT IN THE NEW YEAR.

THE BOERS' REPUBLIC.

Sir George Colley was enabled, thanks to the telegraphic cable which Mr. John Pender, M.P., laid so promptly, to "wire" to the Home Government early intelligence of the rising of the Boers in the Transvaal. The situation of this South African possession of Great Britain is indicated in the accompanying sketch map. It is the most northerly of the European settlements in South Africa; has an area of 115,000 square miles; and is bounded on the south-east by Zululand and Natal. Till about 1876 the Transvaal Republic of the Dutch Boers appeared to be flourishing. But then they got the worst of a series of fights with Cetewayo's brave followers on the Zulu border. They were plunged into hopeless financial embarrassment, from which they were only rescued (so runs the English colonists' account) by annexation to the British possessions. But we have had significant reminders from time to time that the Boers were anything but satisfied with the loss of their independence. Their discontent culminated last month, when Sir George Colley had to "wire" the following tidings to Lord Kimberley:—.

Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 19.—Boers numbering about 5000 have taken possession of Heidelberg and established Republican Government. Kruger, President; Joubert, Commandant. No collision or violence used. Communication with Pretoria cut off. I am sending up all available troops, and leave myself shortly.

THE DISASTER TO THE 94TH IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Some relief has been experienced since the receipt of the news that the disaster to the 94th had been magnified. But the reverse is serious enough as it stands.

Although in their proclamation the Boer Executive proffered an ardent desire to avoid bloodshed, but were willing to go that far if necessary, several hundreds of the Boers, without any apparent provocation, did on Dec. 20 attack 250 men of the 94th Regiment on their march from Lydemberg, about thirty-seven miles from Pretoria. The train consisted of thirty-four waggons, and was half a mile in length. The advance guard numbered seventy, the rest of the men being scattered along the line of the train, and doubtless not at all expecting a formidable onslaught from such a body of Boers. They could hardly, indeed, have known that there was any immediate prospect of war with the discontented Boers of the Transvaal. Very probably, too, the attack was neither sanctioned by the Executive nor known to it, as it goes directly in the teeth of the proclamation to which we have referred. However that may be, the attack was made, with the result (according to the first report) that 120 men of the 94th Regiment were killed, the rest being taken prisoners. Yet some must have somehow escaped, as we are told that the colours were saved. Among the officers, Harrison was killed; Anstruther, Nairne, and MacSwiney were badly wounded; and Carter, of the Commissariat, was missing. This action, as the General commanding in Natal points out, materially alters the situation. It commits the Boers to war, whatever the Executive may have wished. General Colley, however, only asked that a cavalry regiment should be sent out as quickly as possible.

Lieutenant-Colonel Anstruther, who was reported to have been badly wounded, received his commission as Ensign in 1858, and was breveted Lieutenant-Colonel in April of the present year. Captain Stanford Norman M'Leod Nairne, also reported badly wounded, joined the Army in 1862, and received his Captaincy in 1878. Lieutenant James MacSwiney, severely wounded, was Instructor of Musketry, and received his appointment as Lieutenant in 1875. Lieutenant Herbert Augustine Christopher Harrison,

"THE CHILDREN'S PINAFORE," AT THE OPERA COMIQUE.—[See "The Playgoer."]

who was killed in the action, was Adjutant of the regiment, and was made Lieutenant in 1877. The 94th Regiment left for Natal in February of last year.

The Boer Executive, in their proclamation, complain of broken Treaties, but profess a reverence for the Queen. They say—"It lies in your hands to force us to appeal to arms, which God forbid. Should it come so far, we will defend ourselves with a knowledge that we are struggling for the honour of Her Majesty, for we struggle and fight for the sanctity of Treaties sworn to by her, but broken by her officers." Forty-eight hours were given to the Administrator for his reply.

BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS FOR NATAL.

At the War Office on Monday the Duke of Cambridge, Sir Charles Ellice, Sir Garnet Wolseley, and many other prominent officials attended, and arrangements for the dispatch of troops and stores for Natal were discussed. It was determined that, in addition to the 6th Dragoons, the C Battery First Brigade Royal Artillery should also be ordered to proceed to Natal. The battery numbers between 160 and 170 men, with six guns.

THE BOERS SURRENDER THEIR PRISONERS.

Readers of the *Times* learnt with satisfaction from the Durban correspondent of our contemporary on Tuesday morning that—

The report of the disaster to the 94th Regiment was exaggerated.

Thirty men were killed and wounded. The remainder were disarmed and allowed to proceed to Pretoria.

The steamer Anglian, with 140 soldiers on board, arrived at Natal on Monday.

PRETORIA AND RUSTENBERG.

President J. E. Burgess was first elected President of the Transvaal Republic in 1872, the seat of the Government being Pretoria, a town well known to the adventurous spirits who penetrated to the Diamond-Fields. As will be seen from the little map, Pretoria is situated towards the south of the Transvaal. It lies between the Maghalies Berg and the Witte Waters Road, which heights stand 4450 ft. above the sea. It boasts a healthy climate, well suited to Europeans, and the land is good for stock-raising. There's a Government House in Pretoria; and there are Dutch and English churches, and a club, bank, and the usual social and financial institutions of a civilised centre.

Rustenberg, the village in which the British flag was first hoisted on the annexation of the Transvaal to Great Britain, also boasts a delightful climate, and a soil which may yield untold treasures in the shape of gold, coal, iron, copper, and lead, besides the choicest fruits of cultivation: coffee, sugar, and cotton. Centre of the rich district first opened to Europe by the pioneer Boers, Rustenberg will offer a magnificent field to English emigrants when the present troubles are over and order is restored in the Transvaal. Lying at the foot of the Maghaliesberg Mountains, and watered by crystal streams, Rustenberg appears to be just the place to rusticate in for every man who cannot get elbow room in the United Kingdom under the régime of a set of land laws as artificial and repressing as the malicious ingenuity of a despotic autocracy of the past could have devised.

COLONEL CARRINGTON'S BRAVE STAND IN BASUTOLAND.

We cannot leave Basutoland yet. We have it on the authority of the Capetown Correspondent of the *Times* that in Basutoland Colonel Carrington's column on Dec. 13 engaged a great rebel force occupying a strong position on the heights between Mafeteng and Morija. With 200 men in a hollow square, he held at bay a Basuto force outnumbering his own men by twenty to one Fighting steadily, they advanced for 1500 yards, finally driving the enemy back on all sides out of range. The rear face of the square was commanded by Arthur Barkly. The casualties on our side were Murphy, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, and Von Plaster, of the Kimberley Horse, killed, and ten men wounded, including Lieutenant Purland, of the Port Elizabeth Volunteers. A prisoner who was taken says that Letsea, with a large following, has taken no part in the war.

The following telegram has been received from the Premier at the Cape, dated Dec. 24, 1880 (viâ Umtata):—

Situation in Basutoland unchanged: Affairs in Caffraria improving. Colonel Baker had engagement with Umhlonhlo's army. Three hundred rebels killed. Umhlonhlo wounded, but escaped. Umquikela and Nquiliso, the two Pondo chiefs, promise to assist the Government.

THE UNSETTLED STATE OF AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

is also dealt with in our front Illustration. It may be remembered that "Philip" was able—from private sources of information open to him—to announce in his London Letter early in the Old Year that secret drilling was going on to an alarming extent in the sister isle. Events have only too amply justified that statement, which this Journal was the first of any London paper to give publicity to. Thanks to the effectual precautions taken by the Government, the contemplated rising has been nipped. But not until a vast military force had been poured into Ireland.

The first battalion Scots Guards (cheered when they left Victoria station) arrived in Dublin on the Tuesday before Christmas Day, having experienced a very disagreeable passage in the London and North-Western Railway Company's steamer the Duchess of Sutherland, which arrived in a heavy fog at the North Wall shortly before eleven o'clock. The steamer was expected earlier, but the fog delayed the passage considerably. Colonel Smith, Deputy Quartermaster-General, was in waiting at the North Wall, and conducted the arrangements for the landing of the troops, which was carried out with considerable expedition, and at half-past eleven o'clock the men were drawn up on the platform of the new railway station ready to march to their quarters in Ship-street Barracks and Linenhall Barracks. The bands of the 57th and 80th Regiments, and their own drum and fife band, preceded the Guards on their march to barracks, the route being along the North Wall, into Guild-street, Amiens-street, Talbot-street, Earl-street, and Sackville-street, where the detachment, consisting of nearly half the battalion, branched off into Henry-street, for Linenhall Barracks, the head-quarters proceeding over Carlisle Bridge and along Westmorland-street and Dame-street to Ship-street Barracks. As the troops, who wore their overcoats, passed through the streets they attracted considerable attention.

A MISSING BOX OF GOLD.

We learn by the arrival of the Orient Line mail-steamer Cotopaxi at Plymouth that on the arrival of the steam-ship Tararan at Melbourne on Nov. 13, from New Zealand, it was discovered that a box containing gold to the value of £5000 was missing from the bullion-room. Eleven boxes of gold were shipped in Dunedin, and when the strong-room was opened only ten could be found. The missing box is consigned to the Bank of New Zealand, and contains five bars, each bearing the bank brand, and weighing in the aggregate 250 oz. Telegrams have been forwarded to New Zealand and to Hobart Town to ascertain if anything is known of the box at either place. It was conjectured that it might have been accidentally left behind at Dunedin, as the position of the gold-room would almost render it impossible for anyone to open it without being detected. The room is built in with the ship, and is constructed entirely of strong iron, while the only entrance to it is by means of a trap-door fitted with a "Chubbs" lock in the saloon. The door was locked at Dunedin, and the key remained in the possession of the purser until the vessel reached Melbourne.

COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN FRANCE.

An explosion of firedamp took place last Monday afternoon in the Lamalafolie pits, near St. Etienne. Eleven bodies have been recovered up to the present, but it is impossible as yet to determine the extent of the disaster.

SEVERE SNOWSTORM ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

A severe drifting snowstorm from the north-east prevailed in the Atlantic coast last Monday, a New York telegram informed us.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES cure coughs, asthma, bronchitis. Medical testimony states that no other medicine is so effectual in the cure of those dangerous maladies. One lozenge alone gives ease; one or two at bed-time ensures rest. For relieving difficulty of breathing they are invaluable. They contain no opium nor any violent drug. Sold by all Chemists, in Tins, 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.—[ADVT.]

"MR. JOHNSON in his Chemistry of Common Life pointed out that Cocoa had long reached the consumer with too much of its own fat, or loaded with a variety of farinaceous substances producing a soup rather than a beverage. The Cocoa bean affords admirable nutritive flesh-forming qualities, and staying power. In CADBURY'S COCOA ESSENCE these are retained and concentrated, giving an exhilarating infusion, not a starchy soup."—*Warnings to Householders.*—[ADVT.]

Scotland's Snowy Christmas.

WE hear from Dundee that a snowstorm of exceptional severity in the North of Scotland brought the traffic on Christmas Day to a complete standstill on some lines. Engine-drivers and guards say they never experienced such tremendous drifting as on Friday and Saturday. By using

HEAVY SNOW-PLOUGHS,

the Perth section of the Highland Railway was kept clear; but on the Caithness line there seemed to be a complete congestion of traffic. The passenger-train that should have reached Thurso at ten on Christmas Eve was blocked for ten hours. The 12.30 a.m. passenger-train from Wick to Inverness on Saturday, although drawn by two engines, stuck at Scotscalder, and lay completely imbedded, not a particle of the carriages being visible. Another train, which left some hours later, came to a stand at Alanabreack. A pilot-engine stuck at Forsinard. There were only three passengers in the blocked train at Scotscalder, and these, along with the officials, managed to reach the station, where their comfort was attended to. Up till Sunday forenoon the drifting continued so severely that operations with a view to releasing the trains could not be proceeded with. The roads to Braemar were blocked by enormous wreaths, and communication with the Lowlands was meantime suspended. On the Deeside line a train became quite imbedded a few miles from Aberdeen, and all the efforts of a large squad were unable to release it for some time. As may be supposed, the passengers were greatly disconcerted. In some cases the snow was as high as the funnels of the engines, and many passengers spent Christmas day at roadside inns and private houses.

NEARLY 1300 LABOURERS WERE EMPLOYED

on Monday clearing the five snow-blocked branches of the Great North of Scotland Railway, and their efforts were rewarded with success, all the lines having again been opened for traffic by Monday night. It was seven o'clock before the whole line between Aberdeen and Peterhead and Fraserburgh was quite clear. As soon as the news arrived a train was organised at Aberdeen. Many of the passengers had been detained in Aberdeen, and were anxious to get home, and till this train reached its destination late at night Peterhead had been completely isolated from the outer world, except by telegraph.

SNOWFALL IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

A very heavy fall of snow took place in the East Staffordshire district on Sunday night, the roads and thoroughfares being covered to the depth of nearly two feet.

FLOODS IN THE THAMES VALLEY.

We have had quite another state of things in the South of England. After a fall of rain, sleet, and snow on Sunday night and early Monday morning, the Thames in the upper districts caused much havoc. At Windsor the "cobbler" was nearly lost beneath the stream, which rushed with great rapidity and force across its causeway. Some portions of the grounds of Eton College were inundated, and the water was rising in the Home Park.

LIFE WORK OF "GEORGE ELIOT."

ONE of the greatest of English writers is lost to us in the New Year. On Dec. 23 expired "George Eliot," the distinguished authoress. She was in her sixtieth year. Her maiden name was Marian Evans. She applied herself to the languages, mastering German, French, and Italian, became an accomplished musician, and familiarised herself not only with the fine arts, but also with metaphysics and logic. While in this stage she translated Strauss's "Life of Jesus" (1846) from the fourth German edition, and soon afterwards became one of the staff of the *Westminster Review*. Here, by her intimacy with Mr. John Stuart Mill and others, she became confirmed in their peculiar religious and philosophical views. Her translation of Feuerbach's "Essence of Christianity" appeared in 1853. Subjoined is a list of her subsequent works:—"Scenes of Clerical Life," two vols., 1858, published originally in *Blackwood's Magazine*; "Adam Bede," her most popular novel, 1859; "The Mill on the Floss," 1860; "Silas Marner, the Weaver of Raveloe," 1861; "Romola," 1863; "Felix Holt, the Radical," 1866; "The Spanish Gipsy," a poem, second edition, 1868; "Agatha," a poem, 1869; "Middlemarch, a Study of Provincial Life," 4 vols., 1871-2; "The Legend of Jubal, and other Poems," 1874; "Daniel Deronda," 1876; her latest work was "The Impressions of Theophrastus Such." "George Eliot," wife and co-worker with the late George Lewes, was married, about a twelvemonth ago, to Mr. J. W. Cross.

THE REVIVAL IN TRADE.—One of the signs of this revival is the increase in amount of duty paid on wines and spirits. "GRANT'S MORELLA CHERRY BRANDY," represents a portion of this increase; for, in proportion as this delicious and wholesome liqueur becomes more known, the demand for it is enlarged. It can be obtained at all Bars, Restaurants, and Wine Stores. Manufacturer, Thomas Grant, Distiller, Maidstone.—[ADVT.]

Chat of the Gossips.

["WHAT THE *World* SAYS."]

THE proposed visits of the Prince and Princess of Wales seem destined to be frustrated. Only a few weeks ago their intended visit to Lord Aveland at Normanton was stopped the very day before by a death in the family; and last week all the expected festivities at Holkham, the seat of Lord Leicester—where great preparations had been made to welcome their Royal Highnesses—came to an untimely end through the death of the Duchess of Westminster.

The arrangements for the approaching festivities at Crichel are now complete. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to arrive at Wimborne on the 3rd, when they will be received with demonstrations of loyalty on the part of the inhabitants; on Tuesday part of Lord Alington's covers will be shot over; on Wednesday there is to be more shooting, and a grand display of fireworks in the evening; on Thursday the Royal guests will attend a meet of the East Dorset Hounds in the immediate neighbourhood; on Friday the remainder of the covers are to be shot over, and in the evening a grand ball will take place, to which all the county families will be invited.

Earl Cairns and family returned to Landisfarne Lodge, Bournemouth, on Thursday, Dec. 23, and intend residing there during the winter. His Lordship's health was very much below par when he started on his Continental tour; but, since then, it seems to have considerably improved. Earl Cairns and his old cob are familiar objects to the visitors at Bournemouth, and no doubt it affords them a certain amount of gratification to see him again taking his daily exercise along the beach.

The news of the death of George Eliot carries one back to the time, now twenty-three years ago, when she first rose as a star above the literary horizon, and set the speculative wondering as to who the author of the "Scenes of Clerical Life," which appeared from time to time in *Blackwood*, could be. The freshness of the style, the purity of the pathos, and the wonderful knowledge of life displayed in "The Sad Fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton," and continued in "Mr. Gilfil's Love Story" and "Janet's Repentance," took the *cognoscenti* by storm, and even roused the general public from its usual apathy.

I called on Dickens immediately after he had finished reading "Adam Bede," and recollect his telling me he had no longer the slightest doubt as to the sex of the writer. He gave as his reason that there were certain passages—descriptive, I think, of the feelings of Hetty as she surveyed her charms in the looking-glass—which it would have been impossible for any man to write without gross violation of decency, but which might easily have been penned by a clever woman. Months later I wrote to him to ask him the name of the writer, which I was sure he then knew. One of his daughters was his amanuensis for his reply, and at the end of the note, which treated of other matters, she said:

"Papa desires me to say that the name of the person you inquire about is either Bradbury or Evans; and he does not think it's Bradbury!"

The Royal Academicians declare that the forthcoming exhibition of the Works of Old Masters will be the finest yet seen in Burlington House. The collections of Lord Cowper and Mrs. Hope have been placed at their disposal.

The private view of the Grosvenor Gallery is on Friday.

The leader in the *Times* deprecating Sir Donald Stewart's appointment as Commander-in-Chief in India was hardly fair. The writer was so eager to advocate the superior claims of its own men, our friend Sir Garnet being his first favourite, that he did distinct injustice to Sir Donald Stewart.

Madame Sophie Mender, the eminent German pianist, is to make her first appearance in London next season.

Ceremony was almost lacking when Antoinette Sterling sang before the Queen. Her Majesty, with Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, attended by a few ladies and gentlemen of the household in waiting, sat in the drawing-room without formality, and listened to the great mellow contralto voice as it intoned two or three German Lieder, Charles Kingsley's "Three Fishers," the old sixteenth-century song called the "Three Ravens," and an English ballad. A few days later came a very beautiful memento of the evening: a charming silver tea-set, the gift of the Queen.

Mr. Charles Warner has been on a visit to Paris during the week's holiday at Sadler's Wells, in order to study the spectacular drama of "Michael Strogoff," in the English version of which, to be produced next spring at the Adelphi, he is engaged to play the hero.

["TRUE TO *Life*."]

I am able to state, on authority, that the marriage of Baroness Burdett-Coutts will take place [this] month.

A friend observed to Sir Stafford Northcote the other day, "When a new Tory Ministry is formed, a place will have to be found for Lord Randolph Churchill." To which Sir Stafford benignly replied, "I hope that when Lord Randolph Churchill is forming his Ministry a place may be found for me."

The only member of the Russian Imperial family that holds out against the Czar's marriage is the Grand Duchess Alexandra Petrovna, the wife of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

The *Times* showed its hand a little too clearly in puffing Sir Garnet Wolseley and Sir Charles Ellice at the expense of Sir Donald Stewart, who has just been appointed to the post of Commander-in-Chief in India.

SIR H. BARKLY ON THE BASUTO WAR.

SIR HENRY BARKLY, in a letter to the *Times*, says that, as a discussion has been raised respecting the circumstances under which the Basutos were cut off from the immediate protection of the Home Government, it is only just to all parties that the facts should be stated. He gives extracts from despatches addressed to him in 1870, shortly before his departure from England to assume the government of the Cape Colony, to show that, in the view of her Majesty's Government, Basutoland was an inchoate Crown colony, waiting for annexation to one of its neighbours, and he describes the steps taken to carry out these views and the opportunities afforded to the natives of knowing what was being done. Sir Henry adds: "Notwithstanding all the opportunities thus presented, neither the Basutos themselves nor the French missionaries, on their behalf, either privately remonstrated or publicly petitioned against either measure. It is now asserted, indeed, that the Basutos could not understand the nature of the alterations thus affected in their status. This may be true as regards the bulk of the community, but it is certainly not so as regards the chiefs. It was, of course, pointed out to them that unless they were prepared to forego the exclusive privileges secured by their special code in regard to the non-alienation of land to Europeans, the prohibition of the sale of spirituous liquors, &c., they were not entitled to be represented, and nothing further was heard of their claims; but I understand that some of them, nevertheless, have subsequently on more than one occasion sent petitions regarding land and other matters direct to the Cape Assembly. Can it, then, be fairly alleged 'that the Basuto chiefs still believe themselves to be a Crown province,' or that authority over their country has not been long since 'officially and lawfully transferred to the Colonial Government?' Whether that authority has of late been judiciously exercised is a different question."

A PENNSYLVANIA DIANA.

In the midst of a large forest in Pennsylvania lives Henry Merrill, a well-known hunter and trapper. He has but one companion in his solitary abode, a daughter, aged about eighteen years. Lottie Merrill can row a boat, shoot a gun, or trap a bear as well and skilfully as any man in the county of Wayne. Some time ago she started to cross a large inland lake, on the borders of which her home is located, in a light skiff. She carried, as was her custom, a small rifle slung across her shoulder by a leather strap. She was paddling along leisurely, and when nearly half-way across the pond discovered an object moving in the water, and, upon approaching closer, found that it was an immense five-pronged buck, which had been driven into the water by dogs. She immediately drew her rifle, and, after taking careful aim, fired. As she pulled the trigger the buck made a sudden movement, and the ball, instead of reaching its mark, entered the animal's neck, making an ugly and painful wound. The buck, enraged by the pain, struck at the boat with one of its forelegs, shattering the frail bark in pieces. The boat sank at once, leaving Miss Merrill in the water with the struggling and infuriated animal. But she was plucky and could swim. She grasped the buck by the horns, and deliberately drawing her hunting knife, which was as sharp as a razor, from her belt she plunged it into the deer's neck, killing him almost instantly. She then swam to shore, about an eighth of a mile, and hurried home, where she put on dry clothing, and after procuring another boat, rowed out to where the dead buck was floating and towed the animal to shore. When dressed the buck weighed more than 275 lb., and was the finest one killed in that section for years. This is the eighteenth deer Miss Merrill has killed, and she is proud of her last adventure, which is the most thrilling one she has ever had. She intends having this buck's head stuffed as a memento of her terrible struggle for life. Miss Merrill is uncommonly good looking, worth considerable money, and is well educated, and only keeps up her Diana-like life because it pleases her. Her father wishes to move into a more civilised region, but she will not hear of any such proposal.—*Philadelphia Times*.

New and Old Year Chit-Chat.

THE QUEEN'S NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS, consisting of beef and coals, will be presented to the poor of the parishes of New Windsor, Holy Trinity, and Clewer on Saturday. The meat will be distributed, according to annual custom, in the Royal Riding School at Windsor Castle, the coals being delivered at the homes of the recipients. Her Majesty likewise gives a donation to the Royal Clothing Club at Windsor.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE and Lord Granville have issued invitations for the Ministerial dinner usual on the eve of the opening of the Parliamentary Session—Jan. 5.

AN EDITOR'S CHRISTMAS BOX.—The night before Christmas Eve, Mr. Henry Walker, editor of the *Bayswater Chronicle*, was presented with a clock and a cheque for £350, the result of a public subscription, in consequence of Mr. Walker's public-spirited exertions in suppressing a gambling club in Bayswater.

THE APPEAL OF THE REV. MR. DALE from the recent judgment of the Queen's Bench Division will be heard before the Court of Appeal at Lincoln's-inn on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

"AND A VERY GOOD JUDGE"—OF MONEY—"TOO!"—The wills of three deceased Judges have been proved in the Probate Court; that of Lord Chief Justice Cockburn under £40,000, that of Lord Chief Baron Kelly under £60,000, and that of Lord Justice Thesiger under £80,000.

A NEW-YEAR'S GIFT TO THE LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—Under the will of the late Mr. J. F. Stanford, barrister, the National Life-Boat Institution has come into possession of £5000, for the purpose of providing a life-boat in memory of the deceased's late mother.

A TRAIN ON FIRE.—FIVE PERSONS BURNT TO DEATH.—We learnt by telegram on Christmas Eve that five persons had been burnt to death on the Carolina Central Railway, owing to the carriages in which they were travelling having caught fire.

NO FEWER THAN 410,000 LETTERS, in addition to the ordinary correspondence, passed through the hands of the Manchester Post-Office officials at Christmas. The number of letters posted in Liverpool this Christmas in excess of last was 157,011 (402,402). Hand-carts were freely used by the postmen on Christmas Day. In London the last letters could not be delivered in North London till dinner-time.

CHRISTMAS WEATHER AT VENTNOR. — Mrs. O'Brien writes from Roserville, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, on Christmas Eve:—"In my garden here I have in full bloom four different kinds of roses, veronicas of every shade, double stocks, French Marguerites, cyclamen, scarlet geranium, primroses, and violets in profusion. Surely we may go further and perchance fare worse."

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily Chronicle* is informed that the Duke of Connaught is expected in that city at the beginning of January, but it is not said positively that the Duchess will accompany him.

A "MYSTERIOUS" DISAPPEARANCE.—It is stated that a young woman, answering the description of Miss Crowe, whose mysterious disappearance has been the cause of anxious inquiries at Ludlow, was seen accompanying a soldier by rail through Chester, with a ticket for Dublin.

CHRISTMAS CHEER.—Eleven hundred families were provided with a Christmas dinner from the Leicester-square Soup-kitchen, being selected principally from those with large families. This would probably represent some 6000 persons.

THE 6TH INNISKILLING DRAGOONS distinguished themselves at Waterloo, Balaklava, and Sebastopol, the names of which engagements are inscribed on their colours. They should give a good account of the Boers.

BESANÇON, the birthplace of Victor Hugo, was en fête last Monday in honour of the completion of the veteran poet's seventy-eighth year.

LIEUTENANT SCHWATKA, whose name has been prominent lately in connection with Arctic discovery, has written Commander Cheyne offering to serve in his Arctic expedition in some subordinate capacity, provided the United States Government will allow him.

FLORILINE.—For the Teeth and Breath. The best liquid dentifrice in the world. It thoroughly cleanses partially-decayed teeth from all parasites or living "animalculiæ," leaving them pearly white, and a delightful fragrance to the breath. Price 2s. 6d. per Bottle. The Fragrant Floriline removes instantly all odours arising from a foul stomach or tobacco smoke, being partly composed of honey, soda, and extracts of sweet herbs and plants. It is delicious to the taste, and harmless as sherry. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere.—[ADVT.]

ADVICE TO MOTHERS. — MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used when children are cutting teeth. It relieves the little sufferer at once; it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the pain, and the little cherub awakes as "bright as a button." It is perfectly harmless, and very pleasant to taste. It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Sold by all Chemists, at 1s. 1½d. per Bottle.—[ADVT.]

MR. F. C. BURNAND'S "VALENTINE AND ORSON" AT COVENT GARDEN.

MR. E. L. BLANCHARD'S "MOTHER GOOSE" AT DRURY LANE.

TID BITS FROM THE PRINCIPAL LONDON PANTOMIMES.—[See "The Playgoer."]

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Law and Crime.

THE IRISH STATE PROSECUTIONS.

WITHDRAWAL OF LORD CHIEF JUSTICE MAY.

On Tuesday morning the much-talked-of prosecution of Mr. Parnell, M.P., and his colleagues of the Land League, for conspiracy, was commenced in Dublin before Lord Chief Justice May, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, and Mr. Justice Barry, at Sittings at Bar, in the Court of Queen's Bench. The court was crowded in every part. The names of the Traversers are:—Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P., John B. Dillon, M.P., Joseph Gilles Biggar, M.P., Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Thomas Sexton, M.P., Messrs. Patrick Egan, Thomas Brennan, Michael O'Sullivan, Michael Boyton, Patrick Joseph Gorden, Matthew Harris, J. W. Nally, J. W. Welsh, and P. J. Sheridan; the Right Hon. Hugh Law (Attorney-General), Mr. Johnson (Solicitor-General), Serjeant Heron, Q.C., Mr. J. Murphy, Q.C., Mr. Naish, Q.C. (Law Adviser to Dublin Castle), Mr. A. M. Porter, Q.C., and Mr. C. Molloy were counsel for the Crown. The defendants were represented by Mr. M'Donogh, Q.C., Mr. S. Walker, Q.C., Mr. W. M'Laughlin, Q.C., Mr. P. O'Brien, Q.C., Mr. J. Curran, Mr. J. Nolan, Mr. R. Adams, Mr. L. P. Dillon, and Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P.

As soon as their Lordships had taken their seats,

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE MAY

read a written statement, in which he referred to what he termed the misconception which had arisen with regard to the remarks he had made when an application was made to have the hearing of this trial postponed. He felt then that, in the present state of the country, it would not be wise or prudent to postpone the hearing of the charges brought against the traversers. The remarks he made then were based upon facts which had come under his judicial knowledge, and what he stated then he still adhered to. He, however, was careful to express no opinion with regard to the charges made against the defendants, and at the conclusion of his observations he said if such and such facts were proved, not saying for a moment that the defendants were guilty. However, taking all circumstances into consideration, he was of opinion that the cause of the administration of justice would best be served if he declined to take part in the trial. He then retired from the Court, causing considerable sensation, and his place was taken by Mr. Justice Fitzgerald.

The Jury panel was then called. Of the twenty-four jurors on the panel, only eighteen answered to their names, although called on fines of £50. The Attorney-General applied, in consequence of the short attendance of jurors, for a postponement until to-morrow. Mr. M'Donogh objected. He said the usual way in such cases was to select a jury of twelve from those who answered.

This point took up some time. A jury was at last empanelled, nearly two hours having been occupied in the process. The Court then adjourned for twenty minutes. Mr. David Ross, shortly before two o'clock, opened

THE PLEADINGS.

He stated that the Traversers were charged with having illegally conspired together to prevent tenants from paying their rent, and to cut off as if they suffered from a loathsome disease all tenants who paid more than a certain amount of rent. They had conspired together further to make threats of violence in order to compel tenants to impoverish and injure landlords with whom they had entered into civil contract. They had also conspired by soliciting large numbers of persons not to purchase produce from certain individuals, and had attempted to bring the law into disrepute and contempt in Ireland. The traversers had pleaded not guilty, and had thrown themselves upon the country for trial.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

then rose to state the case for the Crown. He said that the fourteen defendants in this indictment were charged with having conspired together to deter and prevent tenants from paying their rents to their landlords; they also further conspired to induce large portions of Her Majesty's subjects to form local conspiracies to carry out the same system of conspiracy in their respective capacities. They had engaged in a conspiracy, according to their public utterances, to bring about a system of social excommunication against certain persons known as landlords in this country. The system they advocated was one of "Bringing them upon their knees," as one of the defendants had expressed it. It was a system which rendered a man's life not worth having. It made him miserable from day to day, and made him prefer death to life itself. The traversers had boasted that this was their policy. They had gone so far as to take credit for having brought about such a state of things in different parts of Ireland. The nature of the conspiracy was, then, unmistakable. But we refer the reader to the daily papers for full reports of the Parnell trial.

RIOTING IN IRELAND.

A large force of constabulary served ejectments on Tuesday upon the Springfield property, near Williamstown. A draught left Tuam, and a number were sent from Kilkenny to assist. The people offered a fierce resistance, pelting stones furiously at the police, throwing mud and every kind of missile and filthy matter. Captain Wynn, the resident magistrate at Castlerea, read the Riot Act amid a shower of mud. The police forced their way across a bridge with drawn swords, but they did not fire, although subjected to the greatest provocation from the crowd. The ejectments were for non-payment of rent, and the tenants did not appear inclined to pay any. Out of sixty ejectments eight only were served to-day. The landlord is Captain Jones Bodkin, and not a penny has been paid on the whole property. This is the first case of recent debt where the landlord has had the courage to serve ejectments.

A BIRMINGHAM MYSTERY.

A labourer named Edwards, of Ironbridge, was on Tuesday morning arrested by the Birmingham police, when he acknowledged having been concerned in the recent attempt to poison Mr. Ashdown, of Uppington Walcot, by sending him a poisoned saddle of mutton. Edwards, who was brought before a magistrate and remanded, declares that he saw the man who was in his company cut open the mutton and put the strychnine in. A reward of £100 had been offered for the discovery of the perpetrator of the outrage.

A MACCLESFIELD CHRISTMAS QUARREL.

A hawker named Stanway is in custody at Macclesfield charged with the murder of a woman named Mellor, with whom he lived. On Christmas night the two were drinking, and Stanway beat Mellor badly, it is reported. Later in the evening he heated a poker red-hot and ran it into her, it is alleged. Mellor died last Monday night, when the police were informed of the matter.

BANK HOLIDAY CHARGES.

Eighteen charges were before Mr. Newton at Marlborough-street Police Court on Tuesday. George Sykes, a cabdriver, badge 1717, and Thomas Morris, a warehouseman, of No. 45, Holborn-circus, were charged, Sykes with being drunk while in his employ as a driver, and Morris with acting as the driver of cab 10,783 without a license. Mr. Newton fined Morris 20s., or fourteen days, for driving without a license, and said that he would fine Sykes when he saw his license.

Only seventeen cases came before the Hammersmith Police Court, principally for drunkenness. James Ferguson, a painter, who gave an address in Goswell-road, was charged with stealing a purse, containing 3s. in silver, from Clara Watson, a dressmaker, living in Caledonian-street, Pentonville. The prosecutrix deposed that last night she was in High-street Kensington Station, and while entering a train the prisoner put his hand in her ulster pocket. Mr. Shell remanded the prisoner to ascertain whether he had been committed before.

About the usual number of charges (twenty-six) were before the magistrate at Clerkenwell, including one against Mary Ann Guppy, who, although she has figured at that court more than one hundred times, escaped after an admonition from the Bench.

There were no Bank Holiday charges or cases of any kind at Hampstead Police Court on Tuesday morning. At Highgate Police Court Messrs. Bodkin and Brooke had a few summonses and charges before them of an unimportant character, not one of which, however, arose out of the holidays.

SUICIDE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

On Christmas Eve a gentleman entered a coffee tavern at 241, Goswell-road, and, having asked for a bed, with which he was accommodated, retired to rest. On the following morning it was discovered that he was dead in bed, and subsequent investigation showed that he had taken poison. The most extraordinary part of the matter is that a heap of ashes on the hearth showed that he had destroyed all that might lead to his identity, and had even taken the precaution to tear out the lining of his hat.

ALLEGED MURDER ON CHRISTMAS EVE BY A BLIND MAN.

At the Durham City Police Court on Monday morning Stephen Bartle, a blind man, and sub-landlord of the Mason's Arms, Durham, was charged with the murder of James Craggs on Christmas Eve. The deceased, who held a good position as architect and surveyor to the Shildon Local Board, went into the Mason's Arms on Christmas Eve, shortly before eleven o'clock. He broke some glasses, and an altercation ensued, when Bartle dragged him along the passage and threw him down some steps, causing such injuries as resulted in death a few hours afterwards. The prisoner was remanded.

THE GROUND GAME ACT IN ENGLAND.

Last week, at the Greta Bridge Police Court, the first case under the Ground Game Act which has been heard in the North came before the Bench, the hearing lasting several hours. William Porter, the occupier of a farm at South Flatt, bordering on the preserves of Mr. R. A. Morritt, J.P., of Rokeby Park, was summoned on the information of Inspector Hutchinson, under section 6 of the Ground Game Act, for placing steel traps in game runs upon land in his own occupation, and owned by Mr. Feetham Green. The date of the offence was the 5th ult. Mr. G. Maw, jun., defended. The setting of the traps by the defendant's son was proved, and not denied, the defendant contending that he had, under the above Act, a right to trap ground game on his own land. The Bench, however, after a long argument with the defendant's advocate, decided that the prohibition against setting traps, except in rabbit-holes, contained in the 6th section, extended to all persons whomsoever, whether having the right to kill ground game under the Act "or otherwise." Mr. Morritt, who was in court, but did not adjudicate on the case, submitted that he himself could not now, even in his own park, set traps for killing ground game on the open surface of the land without committing a breach of the new law. The magistrates—Colonel Headlam and Captain Horne—retired, and after a consultation convicted the defendant in the mitigated penalty of 5s. and costs, at the same time inviting Mr. Maw to take the case to a supreme Court on the points he had raised, if dissatisfied with their judgment. Mr. Maw made no application. The Court was crowded with tenant-farmers.

A CLEVER CAPTURE.

About three weeks ago an audacious robbery and attempted murder was committed at a private hotel in Paris, and the culprit has been discovered and arrested in a manner which reflects great credit on the police. The victim was an old lady named Madame Gouye, who kept the Hôtel des Amis des Arts, and who was discovered early one morning insensible, and with a severe wound on the head. From this state of unconsciousness she has been very slowly recovering, though not able to speak, and scarcely capable of noticing those who were around her, including an agent of police who never left the room, in the hope of Madame Gouye being sufficiently sensible to give information as to her assailant. The first revival took place one morning, when the sufferer was heard to murmur the word "Léonce." This slight clue was enough to send the agent to the prefecture, where are kept the photographs of all those who have been brought up by the police for criminal offences. The portraits were examined, and at length one was found with the name of Léonce at the back. It was taken to Madame Gouye's apartment until such time as the old lady might be roused sufficiently to notice things. The opportunity arrived, the sufferer opened her eyes, and the photograph was passed before them, when a distinct recognition took place, though but momentary. This, however, was enough for the police; the photograph was copied, and every agent in Paris was made acquainted with the likeness; and in two or three days' time the owner of the portrait was arrested on the Boulevard St. Martin, when he made a full confession of his crime.

BEAUTIFUL TEETH.—The Hovenden Tooth-Paste, compounded from the most approved dental simples of the Pharmacopœia. Rose flavour. The cheapest, most efficacious, and most agreeable dentifrice extant. Price 1s., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale of R. Hovenden and Sons, London. Samples post-free 15 penny stamps.—[ADVT.].

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey, or white, or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it will positively restore in every case grey or white hair to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting its growth on bald spots where the glands are not decayed. "The Mexican Hair Renewer" is sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. per Bottle.—[ADVT.]

Sports and Pastimes.

METROPOLITAN TURFITES had on Monday some sport at Kempton Park and Enfield. At the Kempton Park Meeting, Mr. R. Wyatt won the Sunbury Maiden Hurdle-Race Plate with Austin Friar; Mr. H. Gurney, the Selling Hurdle Handicap Plate with Lady Charlie; Mr. H. Rymill, the Kempton Park December Hurdle Handicap with Prospectus; Mr. E. Bird, the Selling Hurdle-Race Plate with Miss Kate; Mr. C. Langley, the Thames Selling Hunters' Flat-Race Plate with Alarmist; and Lord Wolverton, the Middlesex Handicap Steeplechase with Lottery. At Enfield, Mr. Goodchild won the Inauguration Steeplechase and the Christmas Handicap Steeplechase with Ignition.

The Duke of Connaught went out shooting at Osborne on Monday, attended by Sir John Carstairs McNeill.

Gale, who is attempting to walk two thousand five hundred miles in two thousand successive half hours, though still walking last Monday night, was in a very lethargic condition, and only managed on several occasions to complete his half-hourly turn of a mile and a quarter a few seconds before he was again called on by the judges to start. He had completed 2215 miles at ten o'clock on Monday night.

On the second signal being given at 4.30 on Tuesday morning he turned out as usual within a few seconds of time; but once on the path it was with the greatest difficulty that he could be prevailed on to move, and after he had walked three laps (1460 yards) out of his allotted distance he stopped, and flatly refused to move further, and at 4.57.56 he went into his house, and the match as originally arranged was at an end. He had then been walking for 1786 consecutive half-hours, in which he had covered the extraordinary distance of 2232 miles. A doctor was called in immediately, and reported his condition wonderfully well, his pulse beating strongly at 88 only a trifle higher than usual. His breakdown was the more extraordinary, as in all his previous walks he has never shown the slightest symptoms of cowardice. He slept heavily for about six hours, when, after a hot bath, he once more turned out of his house on to the track, having previously announced his intention of endeavouring to complete the 2500 miles within the stipulated time—viz., 1000 hours, although, of course, the original conditions of his contest were broken.

The annual Christmas morning swimming handicap, promoted by the Serpentine Swimming Club, was decided last Saturday morning in the Serpentine, Hyde Park, the distance, as usual, being 100 yards. Nine men faced the starter, and after a good race J. De Levante, 20 sec. start, came in first by two yards; A. Hudson, 11 sec., second; and E. C. Daniels (500 yards amateur champion), scratch, third. Time, 1 min. 55½ sec.

With a thick mist hanging about, and a general state of damp drizzle and unpleasantness, Hampstead Heath at eight o'clock on Monday morning did not present a cheerful aspect, nor did the idea of a dip in the open look very inviting. Nevertheless there was a strong muster around the bathing pond on the heath, both of swimmers and those interested from various motives in the Boxing morning 100 yards handicap of the Albert Club. The race itself was a very good one, and the finish most exciting, the winner being G. Webster, of the Albert Club, who has thus scored a win two years in succession. The second man, A. Hudson, it should be mentioned, secured the same position in the Serpentine Christmas Handicap. The two limit men are two of the oldest men competing in swimming races, Mr. Williams, in particular, must be [illegible] years of age. The race was started from the steps of the bathing-house, a flag being fixed [illegible] up the pond, round which the men had to swim, and, returning, finish at the starting-boat. Mr. G. W. Young, captain of the club, was starter, and Mr. H. J. Hackett judge.

On Christmas Eve William Perry, who had by his exploits in the prize-ring some years ago won for himself the appellation of the "Tipton Slasher," died rather suddenly at his home, the Old Tollgate House, Bilston-road, Wolverhampton, at the age of sixty-one. Perry was born at Tipton, and by his victories in the ring he at one time held the champion-belt of England, and it took the celebrated Tom Sayers to rob him of the honour. Of late years Perry has followed the occupation of a jobbing contractor, and has confined his pugilistic inclinations to encounters with the "gloves" only.

The great billiard-match at the Grand Hotel, Paris, ended last Saturday in the triumph of the French player, though only by a small number. The match was 3000 cannons up, for 10,000f. The maximum points per night were fixed at 600. The contestants were Mr. Slosson, the American champion, and M. Vignaux, the French champion. It was stipulated, in order to avoid the monotony of what is called the American series, that not more than one cannon should be made in the corner within a given angle. MM. Grévy and Gambetta were among the spectators. Mr. Slosson played poorly the first two nights. He then picked up and passed his adversary, making several breaks of two hundred and more; but eventually M. Vignaux caught him, and in the end won by forty-eight points. A return match for 20,000f. is talked of, but this time Mr. Slosson wants it to be played in New York. M. Vignaux, however, does not feel inclined to cross the Atlantic.

The members of the London Athletic Club gave a thirty miles walk (open) on Monday for valuable prizes. For this no less than forty-three amateurs sent in their names, and out of that number thirty-three presented themselves before the starter. The weather was very unfavourable, and the track was in a wretched condition. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, a remarkably fine performance was witnessed, the two leading men beating the previous best amateur record. Medals were offered beyond the usual prizes—silver for all who completed the distance in 5h. 10 min., and bronze for those who finished the journey within 5h. 30 min. To show the excellence of the contest, it may be mentioned that eight men won the silver and ten the bronze medal. So far as the race itself was concerned, however, W. E. N. Cotton, of Southampton, won somewhat easily by 310 yards from J. H. Squires, London Athletic Club, he having led all the way. F. W. Finninger, London Athletic Club, finished third, and L. C. Thomas, London Athletic Club, fourth, there being 600 and 500 yards between second and third and third and fourth respectively. The winner beat the record by 3 min. 26 sec., and it is very likely that he would have done much better had the weather been more propitious. The following list gives the medal winners, with their respective times:—Silver medallists.—W. E. N. Cotton, 5h. 40m. 52s.; J. A. Squires, 5h. 43m. 52s.; F. W. Finninger, 5h. 2m. 4s.; L. C. Thomas, 5h. 5m. 15s.; P. G. Hebblethwaite, 5h. 7m. 55s.; E. D. Johnson, 5h. 7m. 57s.; W. M. Colson, 5h. 8m. 20s.; H. H. Griffin, 5h. 8m. 45s. Bronze medallists.—H. B. Tween, 5h. 17m. 32s.; F. B. Montague, 5h. 18m. 27s.; A. S. Dunn, 5h. 18m. 45s.; E. H. Dixon, 5h. 20m. 1s.; P. G. Lane, 5h. 20m. 32s.; J. L. Dixon, 5h. 24m.; L. M. Potts, 5h. 24m. 20s.; G. F. Shepherd, 5h. 26m. 47s.; H. W. Innes, 5h. 27m. 42s.; J. A. Voelcker, 5h. 28m. 9s.

Trent-bridge grounds, Nottingham, were on Monday the scene of a football match between the Blackburn Rovers and Notts Forest. There was a large attendance, nearly 2000 spectators being present. The Notts Forest men worked hard to avert defeat, but it was of no avail, as Douglas, just before the call of time, sent the ball through for the fourth time. Blackburn Rovers thus secured a somewhat easy victory by four goals to none.

A very large number of sightseers assembled to witness the match between Birmingham and Lancashire, played at Birmingham on Monday. A great portion of the Midland men belonged to the Ortonvilla Club. Some of the best Lancashire men were absent from the encounter. The kick-off was fixed for three o'clock, and a punctual commencement was made. The home team had considerably the best of matters at the outset, as directly the ball was sent on the move they scored a goal. The Northerners then tried hard to make matters even, but Harvey and Copley were on the alert, and the contest once more surged towards the Northern goal line. In spite of the fine play of Eastham and Whitaker, another goal was soon scored by the Midlanders, and then the Lancastrians made a very determined assault, which ended eventually in A. Keeley kicking a goal. Their opponents, however, still pressed them hardly, and just previous to the change of ends the ball was sent through the visitors' posts for the third time. The battle continued in favour of the Birmingham men for the remainder of the game, the match ending in a win by seven goals to two for the home team. A. Hunter was top scorer for Birmingham, and was well supported by Laws, E. Davis, and James, while the Lancashire men were well assisted by Hartley, Elstham, and Howarth.

The Franco-American billiard-match at the Grand Hotel has been decided, amid tremendous excitement, in favour of M. Vignaux, the French champion, who made up his 3000 points while Mr. Slosson stood at 2958, thus beating his opponent by forty-two points. There is a talk of a return-match, to be played in Paris.

The committee of the National Skating Association hope to bring off the championship and amateur championship soon. The general secretary is negotiating with the skating clubs of Holland, for the purpose of carrying out an international skating-match in Holland. The Great Eastern Railway have definitely consented to all facilities for visiting Holland for skating purposes.

SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT less fuel burnt. Perfection and economy in cooking. Ensuring perfect combustion, thus curing smoky chimneys, by using the PATENT TREASURE COOKING RANGE unsurpassed for durability, depth of oven, and capacity of boiler. May be placed anywhere. Cannot get out of order. Illustrated price books post-free. T. J. Constantine, 61, Fleet-street, E.C. Established a quarter of a century. N.B.—The cheapest coal most suitable.—[ADVT.]

A CHRISTMAS FAIRY STORY.

THE GOOD AND BAD FAIRIES, AND HOW THE GOOD TRIUMPHED.

My Dear Children,—You asked me to tell you why it is that you are all so healthy, so full of good spirits, and so happy in all things, when there are so many that we meet every day that have none of these blessings, but who are thin and ill, every step they take painful, and seemingly quite incapable of enjoying this beautiful world of ours.

I will tell you. It is because you are guarded by a wonderful Talisman, which has shielded you from your earliest infancy, and which is the gift of the Good Fairies, who spend all their time in watching and keeping from harm the little ones in every home that possesses it; for everyone can have it if they will only ask for it, and their children will grow up healthy and strong, as you have done.

But to make you understand it all we must go back a long time—many, many years before you were born—when the Wicked Fairies had it all their own way, and there were none to say them nay. You have all heard of the Wicked Fairies who used to take the dear little babies, just born, out of their cots, and carry them ever so far away, leaving in their place poor little shrivelled-up mites, who looked more like bags of bones than children.

Especially at that time, there were two—oh, such Wicked Fairies!—nothing good about them, whose names I will tell you presently, who always were trying how much harm they could do, and never were so happy as when they were causing some misery or other to the Earth Children, as our race was called in those long-past days; so, whenever they could, they would steal away some dear little plump, crowing, darling little baby, and leave in its place a poor, wizened, miserable little thing, that everyone said was a "changeling" directly it was seen.

Did you ever hear of anything so wicked and cruel?

How long this would have gone on no one can say. Perhaps instead of sitting now, this Christmas night, all of us around the warm fireside, so happy each of you, listening to mamma's "Fairy Story," one and all of you might have been far away from home and friends, down in the depths of the earth, digging and delving to please the Wicked Fairies who had stolen you away, and who never say a kind word, and who would tear and pinch you for very mischief.

Are you not thankful that it is not so?

Luckily for you, there are good Fairies as well as bad ones—so kind and true, just the reverse of those I have told you of—who pass all their time in doing good and being kind to the Earth Children; and there were also two of these whose names you shall also soon know, who could not bear to see the way in which the Wicked Fairies treated their pets, and so they set to work, and thought, and thought, and thought how they could prevent their being stolen away and treated so badly. At last they discovered that they must find a certain Talisman, which was of such a wondrous nature that whoever had it in the house where they lived would be quite free from the attacks of all the Wicked Fairies, especially the two that did so much harm. Such a wonderful Talisman this! No one before had ever heard of such a thing—not large, encased in white paper, with cabalistic letters on it; and yet it not only protects children from every ill, but it provides them with delicious food, which never disagrees with them, and soon makes even a changeling plump and strong. Then the question was, How is this Talisman to be found? Where is it? Where could it be hidden? Surely nowhere on earth? Such a treasure must be hidden away in the moonbeams or on some distant star. So off they went, from star to star, then to the moon, but the man in it did not know anything about the "Talisman;" so at last they were nearly tired with their search, and almost gave up hope, when, having come back again to earth, they saw a dear, old, wise, clever physician, surrounded with books even more clever than himself, who for years had been trying to find the same Talisman that they had themselves tried so hard to find; and now he had nearly found it, and indeed would have quite found it, but that it could not be found by mortal man without the Fairies' help.

So, at once, the two good Fairies, whose names were Knowledge and Carefulness, went and sat one on each side of the good doctor, prompting him, and helping him on, and soon the Talisman appeared, and the good doctor gave it to all his patients, and all their children became well and strong; and all the Wicked Fairies, with the two whose names were Ignorance and Neglect, fled away, utterly powerless for harm, except to those who would not keep the Talisman; and although there are many foolish ones who have not even yet obtained it, there are thousands upon thousands of children—yes, and grown-up men and women, too—who hourly bless the good Physician and the kind Fairies, through whose exertions they are saved from Ill Health, Disease, and Death. And you, my dear children, take to heart this little story, and, as you grow up, be sure you continue friends with the good Fairies I have told you of, for you will always find Knowledge a powerful friend in need, and that with Knowledge combined with Carefulness you will escape almost every ill that can come upon you. And what is this Talisman, possessing all these marvellous properties? Can you guess? You have seen it often enough. Why, a tin of Dr. Ridge's Patent Cooked Food—a Talisman, indeed, giving Health, Strength, and Comfort, and Quiet Nights!

Messrs. Ridge and Co. will send an Illustrated Almanack and Diary for 1881 on receipt of 1½d. postage stamps. Their address is Royal Food Mills, London, N. The directions for the management of infants and children should be read by every mother and nurse in the kingdom.

PRETORIA, CAPITAL OF THE TRANSVAAL.

RUSTENBURG, THE TRANSVAAL TOWN IN WHICH THE BRITISH FLAG WAS FIRST RAISED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

"Here we are again!" Another year slipped round, and—in the words of the song—

Left us all so jolly, oh!

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all, nevertheless!

But, I say, what dull dogs some of the recognised clowns are this Christmas! Their Harlequinades are dull as ditch-water. Why don't their Managers give 'em a holiday; and let 'em brighten themselves from those shining lights of Pantomime—Harry Payne at Covent Garden and the droll American clown imported expressly by Haverly's Minstrels? My joints—like those of jolly Tom Matthews—are getting too stiff for me to feel at home in motley. Never mind! Here goes!

Pantomime time is not the season to dwell on disasters, or, I might be tempted to call Lord Kimberley over the coals for allowing the Boer surprise to be sprung upon us. The clown's red-

hot poker may be used with advantage to stir up friends as well as foes with—occasionally. But the fact is, we intend you drop scene in the corner for a warning to the Conservative chiefs. Let either Lord Beaconsfield or Lord Salisbury take a Party advantage of the Disaster to the 94th in the Transvaal—and they may depend on't the ghost of the slain at Islanwahna will be raised to stagger them by many a ready Liberal orator!

My Lord Randolph Churchill, too, is just the one to use this Boer Victory for a personal purpose. But he is quite harmless. Through every line Lord Randolph utters there runs a familiar strain, which might be sung to the tune of a popular air of the pantomimes:—

I shall tell papa, I shall tell my pa!
By Northcote's side I may not sit, so
I shall start a Par-
Ty of my own!

When the stormy winds do blow—no matter from what political quarter—I am still content to pin my faith on GLADSTONE! The prophecies of Mother Shipton—or Mother Grey and Mother Carnarvon, for the matter of that—don't daunt the Man-at-the-Wheel. He sticks cheerily to his post, and sings:—

We'll weather the storm all right,
Tho' the waves dash higher and higher!
Our snug little Vessel is taut and tight,
Loyal hearts our men inspire!

That's so! The weather-beaten old ship will be brought safely into harbour ere long—see if it isn't! Look at this other picture, and observe how even Erin has been won by her Forster-brother. Ah! it was a sight to see Mr. Forster take "the flure" at the Christmas dances in Dublin. The way the English beaux and Irish belles waltzed and quadrilled and jigged would have done your heart good to see. Don't weary me with stories of the Parnell trial, "Boycotting," and the rest. The high jinks that have been going on in high official circles in Ireland do but prove conclusively that your faithful Showman's remedy for Ireland's grievances was the best, after all. And what was *that?* What could it be but the intermarriage of the English and the Irish? Don't ye see how easily it's been brought about? The gallant Scots Guards have been poured into Dublin—only to fall in love with Ireland's bright daughters. Short has limned a typical young English officer at the feet of his Irish charmer—thus showing how Home-Rule is at last victorious—but I find I must once again have recourse to one of the peculiar Music Hall tunes in vogue at the London Pantomimes to give due expression to the redcoat suitors' plaint:—

Erin, now, "wst! wst!"—Come along! "wst! wst!"
Thou'st won my heart, so marry me, "wst! wst!"
Home-Rule of Thine, "wst! wst!" can't be wrong! "wst! wst!"
So let's be quick and mated be, with a "wst, wst, wst!"

I shall have to trouble ye with another familiar strain before I conclude. But I will first beg permission to state that of all the welcome tributes paid to "THE SHOWMAN'S PANORAMA" and GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA'S very relishable Introductory lecture, the most remarkable was the order for a copy sent straight from DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE by its intelligent—I may safely say intelligent—Keeper! I only trust the lonely watcher on the south coast found some grains of wheat mingled in the chaff. And, perhaps, the best New-Year's greeting I can send him and my many other good friends and true will be "THE SHOWMAN'S SHIPTON," and a roundelay to the tune of "The Good Time":—

"Shipton" shall make you happy, now the Good Time 's come!
"Shipton" will make you, oh! so happy, now the Good Time 's come!
Of course, we 'll right all Ireland's wrongs, and keep them under thumb;
Basutos "lick," and Boers reform, in Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-One!

CODLIN.

SOLDIERS' PANTOMIME AT WOOLWICH.

SANCTIONED by official authority, and heartily supported by all ranks of the Army, the Woolwich Garrison Dramatic Club last Monday night produced their annual Christmas pantomime, with every prospect of running successfully the brief course of three weeks allotted to it. It is entitled "King Thrushbeard; or, the Little Pet and the Great Passion," and all the resources of the spacious and comfortable theatre in the Royal Artillery Barracks have been devoted to its production, with elegant and appropriate scenery specially painted by Mr. James Rogers. The plot is founded on one of the stories of "Grimm's Goblins," and treats principally of the adventures of the pretty and accomplished but spoiled and self-willed Princess Imperiosa and her devoted lover, the young King Thrushbeard. The grand transformation scene represents the Birth of the Chrysalis, and is a really beautiful picture.

The pantomime, which has for the first time been intrusted to the management of Sergeant Sculley, Royal Artillery band, has been placed on the stage with great care, and the acting throughout is excellent. Miss Florence Cowell plays the part of King Thrushbeard with much skill and vivacity, the pretty pettishness of the Princess Imperiosa is charmingly portrayed by Mrs. J. G. Bilton; and a third leading lady is Mrs. Sallenger, as the Fairy Queen. The most prominent individual, however, is the old King Paterfamilias, who is represented with admirable drollery by Mr. W. Sallenger, whose many songs and witty allusions to current topics adapted to a special audience were rapturously received. Sergeant-Major Darby plays the Demon King, and Corporal Barker the Count Humdrum, and both with credit; while praise is likewise due to Sergeant-Major Hyland, Sergeant Black, Corporals Stead, Smith, and M'Nabb, to Master Sallenger, and many others who assisted. Sergeant Hawkins was a clever Clown, and Sergeant Roberts an amusing Pantaloon, Sergeant Allen Harlequin, and the sisters Cassandra Columbines.

SAD CHRISTMAS ACCIDENT.—An accident of a distressing character occurred near Ripon on Christmas Day, when two boys, named William Baines, aged twelve, and Whitfield Benson, aged ten, who were sliding on a pond at Quarry Moor, lost their lives.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY.—On Sunday afternoon the Sunday Society opened two exhibitions of paintings in London—one at the East-End and another at the West-End. Admission was by ticket. The exhibition at the East-End was held in the Bishopsgate School-hall, and included upwards of fifty valuable paintings lent by the Science and Art Department from the national collection at South Kensington. The original water-colour sketches for the Arundel Society's publications were exhibited, and, during the two hours the exhibition remained open, some excellent selections were performed upon the organ, the number of visitors being 432. The Hanover Gallery was the exhibition opened at the West-End, and 382 members of the society visited it. Very great interest was taken in the original drawings for *Punch* and Mr. Browning's picture, "The Delivery to the Secular Arm."

AN IRISH TENANT ON JOHN BRIGHT.

Go search the world for glory—
The globe for great men round;
No fairer name in story
Than John Bright's name is found.
Cold is the heart as zero
That such a man would slight—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

Some men brag great Napoleon,
Some boast Lord Wellington,
And many gallant warriors,
Who bloody fields have won;
But are they not more noble
Who conquer by Mind's might?
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

We members send to Parliament,
To righteous laws enact;
But oft as good were dummies
As those whom we select.
A brainless ass, or gomas,
May make a lord or knight!
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

Much turmoil and commotion
He in his day has stood,
Still working with devotion
For mankind's weal and good.
Fair Liberty's opponents
He still is fit to smite—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

When Erin low lies bleeding
Beneath Oppression's throng;
Her cause, oh, see him pleading—
Upholding "right" 'gainst "wrong."
The knaves, who rob and bleed her,
Coarse handling get, and tight—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

The orator and statesman,
He guards both press and pen;
None worthier of the laurel
Amongst the sons of men.
'Gainst Tyranny, for Fairplay,
He ever leads the fight—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

There may be men more lofty,
More wealthy, rich, and grand;
But there is none more honest;
By Truth he takes his stand.
Fair Virtue, Love, or Honour!
None dare them ever slight,
Before the poor man's hero,
The brave John Bright!

Fools sigh for courtly badges,
But good men scorn such fame;
They 've more than star or garter,
They have the world's acclaim.
Their sterling worth and merit
The people's thanks requite—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

When bread and work were plenty,
And we with hunger fought,
The horn of Amalthaea
With Cobden he us brought.
May Heav'n for ever bless them—
May God defend the Right—
Who is the poor man's hero
But brave John Bright!

R. HUDDLESTON.

Moneyrea, County Down.

THE PROSPECTS OF THE BRITISH FARMER at the close of the year are reviewed by the *Mark Lane Express*. The chief danger threatening the agriculturist seems to be the certainty of an extensive spreading of the contagious diseases of animals owing to the constant succession of floods since the summer. There is already a widespread affection of the fluke parasite, and foot-and-mouth disease is nearly all over the country, so that the stock-breeders' interest is once more in great peril.

Quips and Cranks for the New Year.

THE BUTCHER'S MERRY CHRISTMAS.

LADY (*to deaf butcher*). "Well, Mr. Smallbones, how do you find yourself today?"

SMALLBONES. "Well, I 'm pretty well used up, mum. Every rib 's gone, they 've almost tore me to pieces for my shoulders, and I never had such a run on my legs."

Why is the discovery of the north pole like an illicit whisky manufactory?—Because it's a secret still.

Everybody has heard of the jolly Dutchman who, when the steam-boat was likely to sink, succeeded, after much trouble, in finding a life-preserver large enough to fit him. While he was trying his best to blow it up, a young fellow standing by said: "You can't fill that with wind; it leaks. Don't you hear it siss?" "Ish dat so?" he replied. "Vell, I dinks, den, I petter keep de vind in myself."

TEACHER. "Suppose that you have two sticks of candy and your big brother gives you two more, how many have you got then?"

LITTLE BOY (*shaking his head*). "You don't know him; he ain't that kind of a boy."

A south-western editor, speaking of a large and fat contemporary, remarked that if all flesh was grass, he must be a load of hay. "I expect I am," said the fat man, "from the way the donkeys are nibbling at me."

MASSACRES IN THE SOUTH SEAS.

THE Fiji papers just received contain a full account of the attack on the brigantine Borealis by the cannibals in the Solomon group. It appears that on Sept. 10 the Borealis arrived off Sua Bay, Oura, a small island off Malayta, the principal island of the group, and the next day the captain went ashore with Mr. Haukin, the Government agent, and another white men, to recruit labourers. During their absence the vessel was attacked by the natives, who killed and ate the mate, five white seamen, and a Fijian, and also plundered the ship. On Sept. 14 the Stanley, Flirt, and Dauntless, three other Fiji labour-boats, arrived on the scene and found one man on board, a coloured cook, severely wounded, and nearly dead, who had escaped by hiding himself in a tank. The vessel exhibited sad traces of the disaster, the bulkheads being stove in, the mainsail cut to pieces, and axe-marks and stains of blood visible in every direction. The only remains found was a portion of one arm. The boats of these three vessels succeeded in recovering a quantity of the goods that had been stolen, and also captured four of the wretches who had taken part in the massacre. These men were transferred to the Stanley, probably to be taken to the authorities in Fiji. The rest of the natives had deserted the island, and taken to the bush on the mainland of Malayta. With the assistance of one hand lent her by each of the other vessels, the Borealis was enabled to sail for Levuka on Sept. 17, arriving there on Oct. 12. On the way she spoke the Energy off Pentecost, whose captain reported the capture of another vessel belonging to the late Captain Ferguson, of the steamer Ripple, who was murdered in the same group, and her crew massacred.

FOR EVER AND A DAY.

THEY walked together by the sea,
And talked of days that were to be,
And hand in hand upon the hill
They paused to see the white sails fill
With warm winds from the west; and he
Said, softly, "So our argosy
We hope will come from isles afar,
Where all life's countless treasures are,
And bring to us for coming years,
All happy things, and naught for tears."

"Blow softly, softly Summer wind,"
She said; and looking far away
To where the freshening breezes thinned
The mists that fringed the edge of day,
She watched to see the shining sail
Of homeward-faring argosies
Flash out in sunshine. "Let no gale
Beat round the bark that brings to me
The treasures of the Happy Lands.
Blow softly, wind, from far away,
And bring the gladness to my hands
That lasts for ever and a day."

A cloud arose and hid the sun;
Grey shadows fell ere day was done.
They heard the moaning of the waves
Like midnight voices over graves.

The morning shows upon the bar
A white, dead face, a broken spar.
The ship they waited for has come,
But, ah! the helmsman's lips are dumb;
No treasures from the Happy Lands
Await their eager outstretched hands.

"Dear heart," she says, and smiles thro' tears,
"Think what is left for coming years!
Dead hopes we bury in the sea,
But love remains to you and me!
And, oh, my darling, come what may,
That lasts for ever and a day!"

EIGHTEEN MURDERS.—Sheik Mograbin, an Egyptian dignitary, has been condemned to death for murdering and plundering rich ladies, whom he enticed by pretending to cure the most difficult diseases. Poor patients he sent away unharmed with some specific, while those wearing jewellery and costly dresses he made away with. He confessed to eighteen of such crimes.

A SAILORS' FREAK.—On the arrival o the 7.25 train from Bristol at New Passage Pier last Monday night two sailors, named Bates and Hill, on their way to Cardiff to join their ship, opened the carriage door on the opposite side to the platform, and, jumping out, fell over the parapet of the pier to the shore of the river below. Hill was picked up dead, and Bates, who had a leg an arm broken, was taken to a hospital.

AMERICAN LINE (Netherlands) book passengers at the cheapest rates, £4 18s. from London on Thursdays, Hull on Wednesdays, Newcastle-on-Tyne on Tuesdays. Passengers are now booked through from Dublin on Saturdays for 30s. extra. Children under twelve half-price. To New York, Boston, or Philadelphia. Write to the Manager, F. W. HETHERINGTON, 11, Wellington-street, Strand, London, W.C.

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Bloom is on the Rye (My pretty Jane)
Empty Cradle.
Ere around the huge oak.
Hark, hark, the lark.
John Peel.
Mother's treasure (Baby mine).
Nelly Gray.
Old folks at home.
Old King Cole.
Red, White, and Blue.
Somebody whispered so sweetly.
Sympathy.
Wait for the Waggon.
Ah, he Kissed me when he Left me.
A Life on the Ocean Wave.
Anchor's Weighed.
Annie Laurie.
Arethusa.
Auld Lang Syne.
Auld Robin Gray.
Bailiff's Daughter of Islington.
Bay of Biscay.
Beautiful Dreamer.
Belle Mahone.
Birdie, you must never tell.
Blow High, Blow Low.
Blue Bells of Scotland.
Bonnie Dundee.
Bread and Cheese and Kisses.
Caller Herrin'.
Call me your Darling again.
Campbells are coming.
Canadian Boat Song.
Cherry Ripe.
Chiming Bells of long ago.
Close the Shutters, Willie's Dead.
Come, Birdie, Come.
Come Home, Father.
Come sit by my side, little Darling.
Come where my Love lies Dreaming.
Comin' thro' the Rye.
[illegible] the Sea.
[illegible] Lawn.
[illegible] n you 'll forget
[illegible] Nelson.
[illegible] eed her Warning.
[illegible] Angry with me,
[illegible] g.
Do they miss me at Home.
Down among the Dead Men.
Down by the River-side I Stray.
Do you ever think of Me.
Driven from Home.
Every Bullet has its Billet.
Friar of Orders Grey.
Gentle Minnie Lee.
Gipsy's Warning.
God Save the Queen.
Good Old Jeff.
Grandfather's Clock.
Harp that once thro' Tara's Halls.
Harry Bluff.
Hazel Dell.
Hearts of Oak.
He is not a Marrying Man.
Home, Sweet Home.
Huntingtower.
Isle of Beauty, Fare ye Well.
Ivy Green.
John Anderson, my Joe.
Just Before the Battle, Mother.
Kind Words can Never Die.
Kiss me, Mother, Kiss your Darling.
Land o' the Leal.

COMIC SONGS.

Chilly man.
Cheap rig out.
I 've such an Awful Cold.
Madame la Shortie, or Biddy the ballet-girl.
Wouldn't you Like to Know.
A Frog he would a Wooing Go.
Cookery; or too many broths spoil the cook.
Cork Leg.
Dutchman's Leetle Dog,
I Love to Think of the Days when I was Young.
I 'm so fond of dancing.
Johnny, don't wriggle the Baby.
Little Brown Jug.
Lord Lovell.
Lost Child.
Monkey's Wedding.
Mulligan Guards.
People will Talk.
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